

CLAIMS

1 1. A system, comprising:
2 a computer including a central processing unit (CPU) but not including a local hard
3 disk drive;
4 an adapter coupled to the CPU for receiving local disk I/O requests therefrom; and
5 at least one network resource communicating with the adapter for satisfying the local
6 disk I/O requests.

1 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter is plugged into a motherboard holding the
2 CPU.

1 3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter is connected by a connecting cable to a
2 motherboard holding the CPU.

1 4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter translates disk I/O requests into network
2 I/O requests.

1 5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter is also a computer network adapter.

1 6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter is not a computer network adapter.

1 7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter includes a sequence of bytes identifying
2 the adapter to the CPU as a secondary boot device.

1 8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter causes a conventional operating system
2 configured for generating local disk I/O requests to be loaded from a network storage to a volatile
3 memory in the computer.

1 9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter is housed within the computer.

1 10. A method for facilitating, in a diskless computer, the use of an operating system not
2 modified to not issue local disk I/O requests, comprising:
3 receiving local disk I/O requests from the operating system; and
4 satisfying the local disk I/O requests by accessing a network communicating with the
5 diskless computer.

1 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the satisfying act includes translating the local disk
2 I/O requests to network requests at an adapter, transparently to a CPU in the diskless computer.

1 12. The method of Claim 11, comprising plugging the adapter into a motherboard holding
2 a CPU of the diskless computer.

1 13. The method of Claim 11, comprising connecting the adapter to a motherboard holding
2 a CPU of the diskless computer using a connecting cable.

1 14. The method of Claim 11, wherein the adapter is also a computer network adapter.

1 15. The method of Claim 11, wherein the adapter is not a computer network adapter.

1 16. The method of Claim 11, wherein the adapter includes a sequence of bytes identifying
2 the adapter to a CPU of the diskless computer as a secondary boot device.

3 17. The method of Claim 10, comprising causing a conventional operating system
4 configured for generating local disk I/O requests to be loaded from a network storage to a volatile
5 memory in the computer.

6 18. The method of Claim 11, comprising disposing the adapter in the computer.

1 19. A diskless computer, comprising:
2 a CPU running an operating system not modified to not issue local disk I/O requests;
3 a disk-free adapter communicating with the operating system and receiving disk I/O
4 requests therefrom; and
5 a network connection through which the disk I/O requests can be satisfied despite the
6 lack of a local hard disk drive in the computer.

1 20. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter is plugged into a motherboard holding
2 the CPU.

1 21. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter is connected by a connecting cable
2 to a motherboard holding the CPU.

1 22. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter translates disk I/O requests into
2 network I/O requests.

 23. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter is also a computer network adapter.

 24. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter is not a computer network adapter.

1 25. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter includes a sequence of bytes
2 identifying the adapter to the CPU as a secondary boot device.

1 26. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter causes the operating system to be
2 loaded from a network storage to a volatile memory in the computer.

1 27. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter is housed within the computer.